

Appl. No. 09/334,185

In Response To: Office Action dated December 15, 2003

Title: METHOD, SYSTEM, SOFTWARE, AND SIGNAL FOR PERFORMING EVENTS FOR
RELATED PROGRAMS

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 19 remain in this application. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn. No claims have been added.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 through 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,025,837 (hereinafter "Matthews") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,585,865 (hereinafter "Amano"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1, particularly as amended, requires "maintaining a subset of program information for at least one related program of a given program, the program information for the at least one related program being maintained with program information for the given program in an information handling system" and *"providing information on programs related to the at least one related program but otherwise unrelated to the given program except through the at least one related program, the information on programs related to the at least one related program being associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program"*. Claim 11 includes similar requirements. Further, claim 6 requires "a program of instructions configured to be executed by said processor and stored in said memory, said program of instructions including instructions configured to *** *provide information on programs related to the at least one related program but otherwise unrelated to the given program except through the at least one related program*". Also, claim 16 requires "at least one instruction configured to maintain, in an electronic program guide (EPG), a

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subset of program information for at least one related program of a given program, the program information for the at least one related program being maintained with program information for the given program" and "at least one instruction configured to *provide information on programs related to the at least one related program but otherwise unrelated to the given program except through the at least one related program*, the information on programs related to the at least one related program being associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program".

The new requirements of the independent claims are disclosed in the present application, and are particularly discussed at page 13, in the second complete paragraph, where it is stated that "A program may be related to the given program. . . if the program is related to an intermediate program that is in turn related to the given program. An example of the last type of relationship could be a program that has content about bears' feeding habits, including eating salmon. The bear program could be related to a program about stocking fish, including salmon, which is further related to a program about fishing in artificially stocked rivers." Clearly, as the subject of "fishing in artificially stocked rivers" is otherwise unrelated to the subject matter of "bears' feeding habits", except for the common relation to the subject matter of "salmon". The ability to find other programs that are "unrelated" is set forth as an advantage in the the second paragraph of page 13, where it further states that "the present invention is capable of providing information that may otherwise have gone unnoticed by the user" had the present system not been utilized to associated otherwise unrelated programs together.

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This feature of the claimed invention is in direct contrast to the system of the Amano patent, which discusses the grouping of information about programs together due to the programs all being related together by a particular "genre". Since all of the programs that are required to be of the same "genre" to be associated together, it is submitted that the Amano patent would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the requirements of the independent claims set forth above, and in particular "providing information on programs related to the at least one related program but otherwise unrelated to the given program except through the at least one related program".

In particular, the Amano patent states at col. 2, lines 12 through 24 that (emphasis added):

In view of the above, it is an object of the present invention to provide a tuning device which allows for automatic tuning of broadcast channels on which particular television programs, or types/genre of programs are broadcast based upon user input, or identification of a desired program, or program *type*.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a tuning method and a tuning apparatus for automatically tuning in a channel/broadcast channel as specified by the user for a particular program or genre of program and, if the specified program/genre exists in plurality, automatically tuning in the channel based on the frequency at which the desired program/genre has been received in the past.

Also, at col. 5, lines 8 through 20 teaches (emphasis added):

Reference numeral 33 indicates a plurality of genre buttons. The genre buttons are each associated with a particular genre/type of program. For example button "genre 1" is associated with the genre of Educational programming. Button "genre 4" is associated with News programming, while button "genre 7" is associated with Music programming. The genre buttons are used to select a program belonging to a desired genre. For example, when a "News" genre button is pressed, only broadcast channels on which news programs are broadcast will be selected/tuned in and displayed on the CRT 24. Unused genre buttons ("Unused 1" and "Unused 2") of the genre button group will be described later.

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Thus, the Amano system only associates programs that have the same, or common, genre relationship to one another. This is particularly evident from the depiction of Figure 7 of the drawings of the Amano patent, where the broad genres of "education", "entertainment", "movie", "news", "religion", "sports", and "music" are displayed, and more specific sub-genres are shown, including "baseball", "soccer", "tennis", "professional wrestling", and "marathon" are listed. Significantly, if the subject matter of a program does not fall within a particular genre, then the program is not associated by the Amano system with the other programs of the "genre" listing. The listing by "genre" in the Amano system would lose all meaning if programs were listed or grouped under a genre with which they had no connection.

It is therefore submitted that the Amano patent would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the requirements of the claims set forth above, and particularly the requirements set forth above. Therefore, allowance of claims 1 through 19 is respectfully requested.

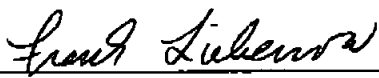
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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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